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Meeting Minutes

Commission for Blacks

11-2011

Meeting Minutes - November 2011

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting November 2, 2011

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:08pm.

In Attendance: Camille Hall, Philippa Satterwhite, Lilia Neville, Patricia Jones, Jenny Moshak, Meshia Thomas, and Will Parrott.

1. Review of October Minutes: October minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Report from the Chair: The Executive Committee meeting met on November 1, 2011 (i.e., a virtual meeting) some members experienced some technical difficulties. To minimize complications unrelated to equipment malfunctions, an OIT representative will provide a tutorial at the next commission meeting. One of the topics of discussion was the COACHE, in the past, this survey only included tenure-track faculty; all faculty will participate in the upcoming survey.

The Commission for Blacks, Commission for Women, and Commission for LGBT People met with Provost Susan Martin; Dr. Papke reiterated the importance of adding a civility statement to course syllabi.

Dr. Hall presented the idea of having a diversity logo that will represent the Commission for Blacks, Commission for Women, and Commission for LGBT People. The commissions will keep their specific logos but the diversity logo will serve as a symbol of working together on the issue of diversity.

Dr. Hall attended an Alumni Affairs meeting. The Commission for Blacks was invited to address diversity and alumni involvement in the alumni newsletter "Torch Spirit".

Michell Greenidge presented logos for the CFB she will e-mail logos to commissioners for input and suggestions.

3. Council on Diversity & Interculturalism: Jenny Moshak attended the CDI meeting and gave an update on the Employee Engagement Survey. Representatives from the Commission for Blacks, Commission for Women, and Commission for LGBT People were charged with writing a letter to the Chancellor regarding the lack demographic comprehensiveness. The representatives were to address the impact of not including areas of diversity e.g., veterans, disability, LGBT community, etc. Representatives provided suggestions that would broaden demographic information on the employee engagement survey. Anton Reece (c-chair, CDI) forwarded the letter to Chancellor Cheek, he has not responded.

4. BLACK@UT Newsletter: Dr. Hall solicited volunteers to serve as editor for the BLACK@UT newsletter; the previous editor retired. Dr. Hall advised commissioners to think about ways to increase Commission for Blacks visibility; she proposed the commission develop a strategic plan. Faculty and student representatives should work together to complete the strategic plan. The strategic plan will focus on preparing Black faculty, staff and students for the next 50 years. Dr. Hall proposed a March 2012 target date. Charles Houston and Annazette Houston and Rita Geier will be interviewed for the newsletter. A follow-up e-mail requesting specific interview dates will be sent out by Michell Greenidge.

5. Bylaws: Dr. Hall stressed the importance of commissioners providing input for bylaws. The Bylaws committee will develop amendments that will address: the specifics of the community forum, committee requirements, and election procedures.

Ms. Denelle has developed a procedure for nominations and selection of prospective awardees, this information will be posted on the commission website to ensure all nominees will have the same information.

6. Community Outreach Committee: Patricia Jones requested additional information regarding the community forum. Dr. Hall suggested networking with UT's current/future community outreach programs. Working to build a sense of community is important. Dr. Hall Patricia agreed to meet with Community Outreach when the commission meeting adjourned.

7. Access and Diversity Staff Retention Fund Committee: Philippa Satterwhite, chairperson, stated the committee is finalizing goals. The application deadline for funds is November 30, 2011. Linda Francisco invited Philippa to attend the next meeting which is TBD. This meeting will help the committee obtain information regarding deadlines and requirements for funds. Dr. Hall advised Philippa to contact Marva Rudolph to get a black faculty e-mail list.

8. Commission for LGBT People: Jenny Moshak announced the OUTSTANDING conference was a great success. She states it was standing room only. The Provost attended the conference. This event was the first all day LGBT event UTK has ever had.

9. Civility Forum: Will Parrott stated the civility forum was a success. He stated there were not as many students as expected. Faculty members attended to include Sarah Gardial. Will stated faculty member involvement enhanced the discussion. He also stated the discussion was so engaging they were unable to get to each agenda item. Dr. Hall requested Will work with Avery Howard to meet with the student government association.

10. Announcements: Meshia Thomas announced the Race Against Racism event. She stated Marva Rudolph is on the committee to prepare for the race. The race will likely be **January 14, 2012** (date will need to be confirmed). Jenny Moshak requested the committee reach out to the men's and women's basketball teams for support. Will Parrott announced a Student Government Affairs forum that will be similar to the civility forum. The panel guests will include faculty and staff to enhance discussion. The event will take place on **November 8, 2011 at 5pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.